

Las Vegas Urban Area Working Group (UAWG)

PUEBLO ROOM
CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
500 S. GRAND CENTRAL PKWY
LAS VEGAS NV 89106

DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 11:00 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

UAWG MEMBERS PRESENT:

JOHN STEINBECK, CAROLYN LEVERING, CARLITO RAYOS, NICOLE HART, STEVE KRAMER,

UAWG ALTERNATES PRESENT:

RICHARDS RESNICK, IRENE NAVIS, MICHAEL JAKUES, DIMITRI THEODOROU,

UAWG MEMBERS ABSENT:

LARRY HAYDU, KEVIN NICHOLSON, PAUL GERNER, KASH CHRISTOPHER, CHRIS SPROULE, RYAN TURNER, RICK DIEBOLD,

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

John Steinbeck, UAWG Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, November 12, 2014. Quorum present.

II. Public Comments

- Bill Smith provided his report and spoke about the ARES simulated test held in October where they discovered they needed to expand their role in digital communications. He detailed how this would be beneficial and that they would be working with the hospitals to get their packs up and running reliably 24/7. This would extend their range to communicate outside of the valley. Bill then advised of all the events that they participated in through October and planned events into November. Big news was the 100th celebration in August of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), Craig Fugate the Director of FEMA who is also an amateur radio operator entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for with ARRL to advocate for more involvement and use of Amateur Radio as a backup form of communication. January 24, 2015 next meeting.
- Rick Resnick, City of Mesquite wanted to extend a thank you to the UAWG for helping the past couple of years with de-obligated funds to work on radio systems in Mesquite. They have been able to secure through municipal funds the remaining balances they needed to finish. The City will be live on the 700mhz system by the end of January 2015.

III. Comments from the Chair

- The Chair stated that for the 2013 UASI grants the UAWG should expect his office to reach out to everyone shortly to get a progress report on where they are with spending and any potentials for de-obligations.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for February 12, April 7, and August 13, 2014

Motion by, Carolyn Levering: To approve as submitted

Seconded by, Nicole Hart

No discussion motion carried

V. UASI Grant Funding letter Request from Sacramento

The Chair detailed the letter that was sent and what the request was, he then turned to Irene Navis to further explain.

Irene Navis gave background to the nature of the letter and then a brief update on the status on the bills going through from the lobbying team. She then stated that neither the House or the Senate have passed their respective Homeland Security Appropriations Bills at this time the House Homeland Security Appropriations Bill for FY2015 has a \$600 Million allotment for Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) with the normal 25% going to Law Enforcement with the normal 80% of the UASI funds passing through the State to local governments that we've seen in previous years. The House Bill requested that the program be limited to the higher cumulative risk areas, so the areas that have the higher 80% cumulative risk get the majority of the grant, this is the crux of the Sacramento request to band together in the West. She further stated that Senate Bill funded UASI at \$600 million and that \$13 million of those funds were designated as eligible for non-profits it did not include any other restraints. Neither Bill followed the President's budget request which wanted to FMAG and EMPG under State and Local Programs, she explained why this wasn't done.

Irene reiterated the agenda item request for support but turned it back to the Chair to open discussion amongst the UAWG on how to handle. Carolyn Levering posed the question on why Sacramento was reaching out outside of the National UASI group. She gave a brief report on what the City of Las Vegas lobby team felt was important and suggested partnering with other tourist based cities on the UASI status such as New Orleans. She stated that the Sacramento UASI should be going through the National Coalition for support as that is what it is there to do. Irene reminded that last year Mark Blomstrom was tasked with looking at this from a regional perspective, this year we need to take a look at the idea of something new possibly or even going forward with proposing the airport as a port. Carlito Rayos brought up that there was additional funding available through HUD and that though this is a different funding stream it may be something that needs to be brought up to the delegation. Carolyn Levering stated that the HUD money is not a discussion that would be appropriate to go through the UASI or the LEPC but that it may be more appropriate to the Emergency Managers group. The Chair talked about a working group to begin working on this project, Carolyn then mentioned that the American Gaming Association is extremely interested in support the UASI for both Las Vegas and New Orleans this would be a potential ally in the private sector, she then named several people inter-governmentally that would be good to have a meeting with to talk through some of the issues. The Chair called for other any other and if there was a motion on the floor for the request.

Dimitri Theodorou asked how they come about the formula for funding. Carolyn Levering on a cursory level gave Dimitri a brief explanation. Irene Navis continued explanation on our ranking compared to others. Then conversation ensued between Rachel Skidmore and Rick Resnick about recent threats to the Valley. Rachel gave a high level explanation of the various groups and the six ideal targets we were number two on the list just behind Time Square were Las Vegas nightclubs and casinos for lone wolf extremists. Dialog continued about the components MSA where Rachel gave an idea of process.

The Chair asked for any other comments and then said he would be putting together a working group on this topic to work with elected officials.

Nicole Hart agreed that the letter needs to come from the UASI Coalition. She suggested that Sacramento be told to work with them.

Rachel Skidmore read the request from Sacramento to clarify what the request was.

Motion by, Carolyn Levering: **To thank Sacramento for their concern and of course we will continue to fight for Urban Area Status and funding and we wish them well in their fight as well. And on the second part of the motion as a body to continue to work together in**

drafting the letters going to our delegation so that we may remain a united front within our own Urban Area.

Seconded by, Nicole Hart

No discussion motion carried

VI. 2013 Las Vegas Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy Updates and Future Workshop

Irene Navis reported that at the last meeting the process for updating our Urban Area Strategy was discussed and she promised to find out where the State was on their update, she advised that they were still under internal review and it hadn't been finalized or approved yet. Since that time she stated that she has not received any comments from any UAWG member on any changes. Irene stated that Nicole Hart had suggested planning a workshop type meeting to reduce multiple meetings. Nicole Hart advised that between now and New Years Eve it was going to be too challenging to work on this and that it would be best to set it up after the first of the year. Discussion was had about the amount of time needed. A date planned for January will be announced once set. Irene asked for any updates to be submitted to her via email prior to the workshop.

VII. Public Comments

- Steve Kramer stated that several meetings back he had to go through the unpleasant task of de-obligating funds and that he had made a statement that he would do an analysis to bring back to the group to let the UAWG know where some of the shortfalls came from. He advised that he has diligently worked for the past six months on the whole root cause analysis so he wanted to report on where the shortfalls were. He stated that unfortunately 3 staff who had been involved since 2010 were no longer employed by the Health District and he was only able to get ahold of one of them to ask questions. He spoke to all parties involved and what had transpired before he received the grants, thankfully a very limited amount of money was unspent. He discovered some processes internally that were mishandled, going forward any DHS funding that the SNHD gets will go through him. He explained that there was a lot of misunderstandings and that those who still work at SNHD that had involvement will not have involvement going forward. His point was to provide assurances that what has happened in the past will not happen again in the future.

Next UAWG meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 11:00 A.M., Clark County Government Center, Pueblo Room, 1st floor, 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89106

VIII. Adjournment

Motion, by Nicole Hart: **To adjourn**

Seconded, by Steve Kramer

No discussion, motion: carried

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM

In accordance to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, this meeting was properly posted and electronically recorded.